ISSN 0712-7774

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

63
JUN

MIND GAME IV

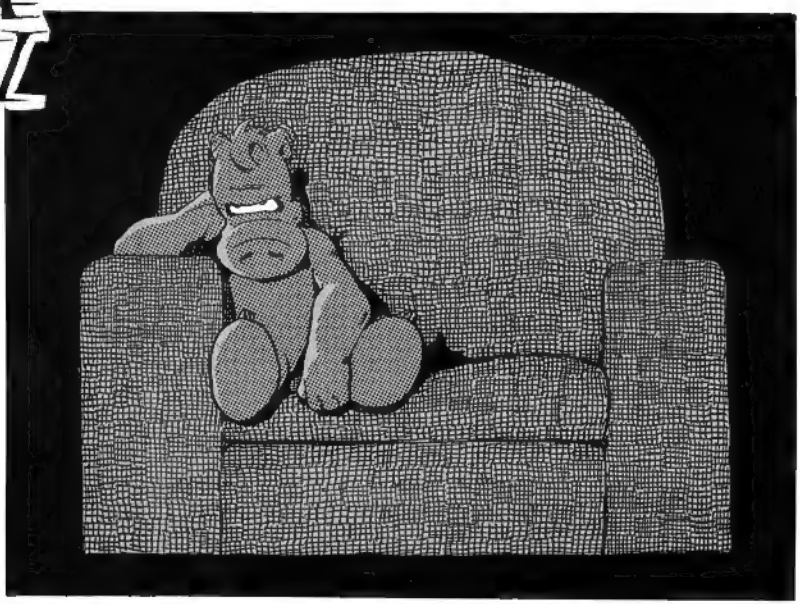
$2
$1.70
IN U.S.

MIND GAME IV

CEREBUS WANTS AN ALE...

THERE *ISN'T* ANY ALE. HANEK TOLD CEREBUS HIMSELF ...

THE ALE WON'T BE IN FOR THREE MORE DAYS...



LOUSY HOTEL. CEREBUS WANTS A WHISKEY, THEN.

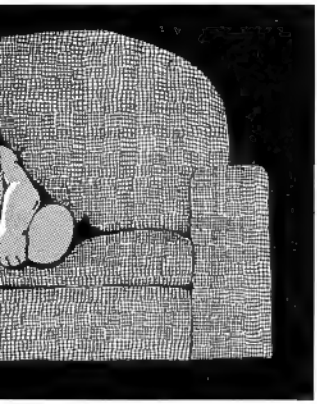
WHISKEY GIVES CEREBUS THE RUNS ...

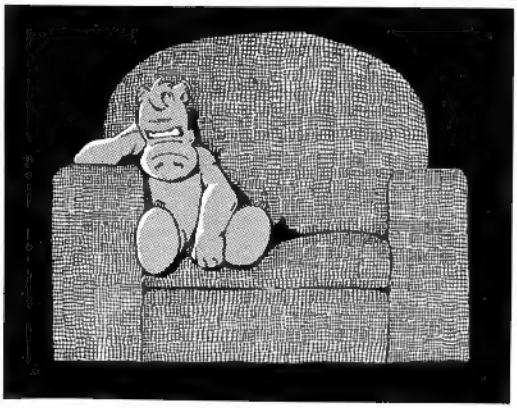
CEREBUS WON'T DRINK THAT MUCH ...

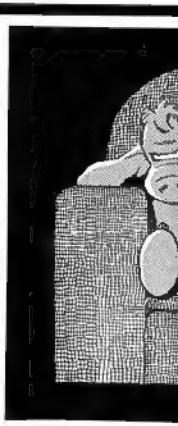
CEREBUS ALWAYS SAYS HE WON'T DRINK THAT MUCH, BUT CEREBUS ALWAYS DOES...

CEREBUS WILL ORDER TWO SMALL GLASSES ... THE ONES THAT THEY BRING THE ORANGE JUICE IN...

THEY ALWAYS BRING THE BOTTLE AND CEREBUS ALWAYS TELLS THEM TO LEAVE IT...

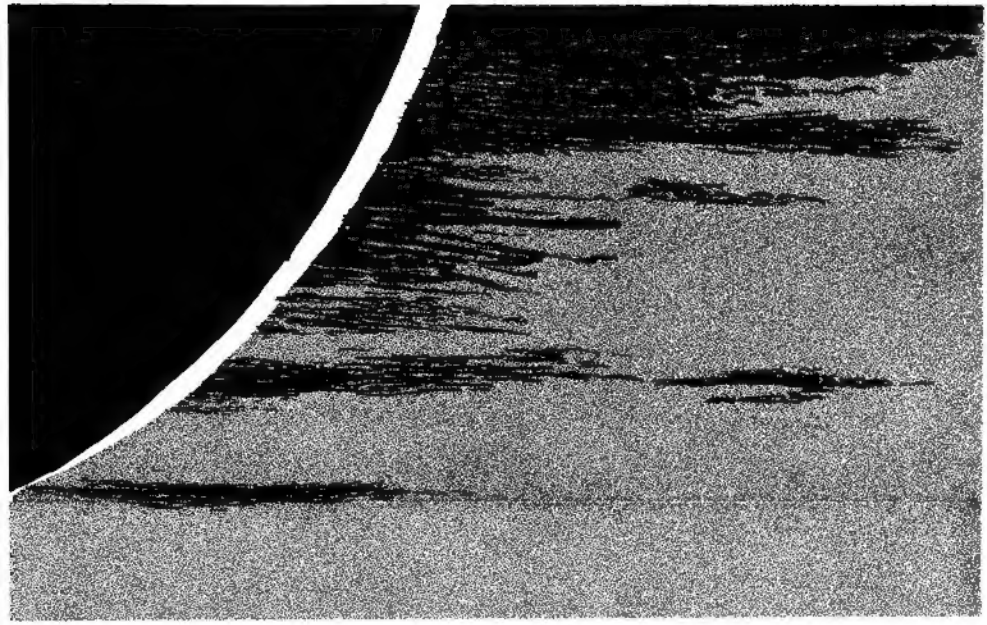






CEREBUS DOESN'T ALWAYS TELL THEM TO LEAVE IT...

NO. SOMETIMES CEREBUS JUST ORDERS A REFILL EVERY TWO MINUTES UNTIL THEY GET THE HINT AND LEAVE IT WITHOUT BEING ASKED...



CEREBUS IS ONLY GOING TO DRINK UNTIL THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS *GUT* STARTS TO *HURT*...

...AND THEN CEREBUS WILL DRINK FASTER TO KILL THE *PAIN*.

LIKE THAT TIME CEREBUS ALMOST *DIED* IN TANSUBAL...

CEREBUS *QUIT* DRINKING THAT TIME...

FOR AN *AFTERNOON*.

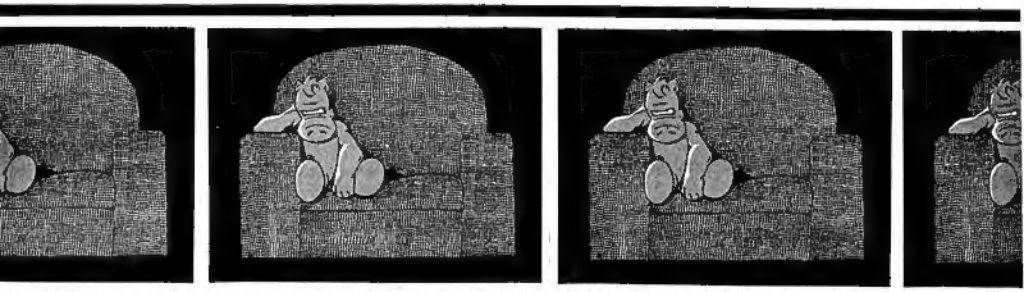
ALMOST A *WHOLE DAY*.

ONLY BECAUSE CEREBUS PASSED OUT AT DUSK AND DIDN'T WAKE UP 'TIL *NOON*...

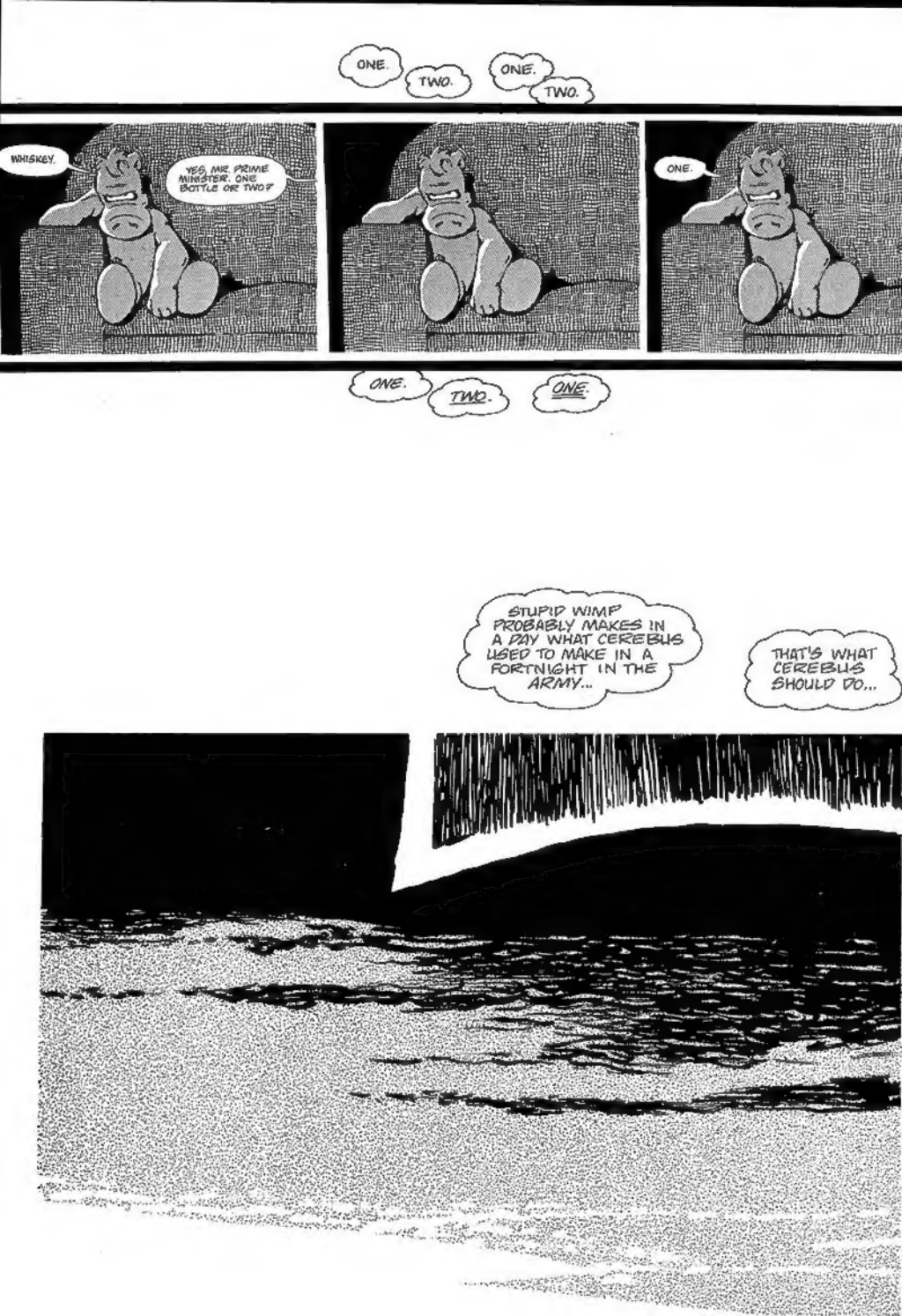
ONE DRINK.

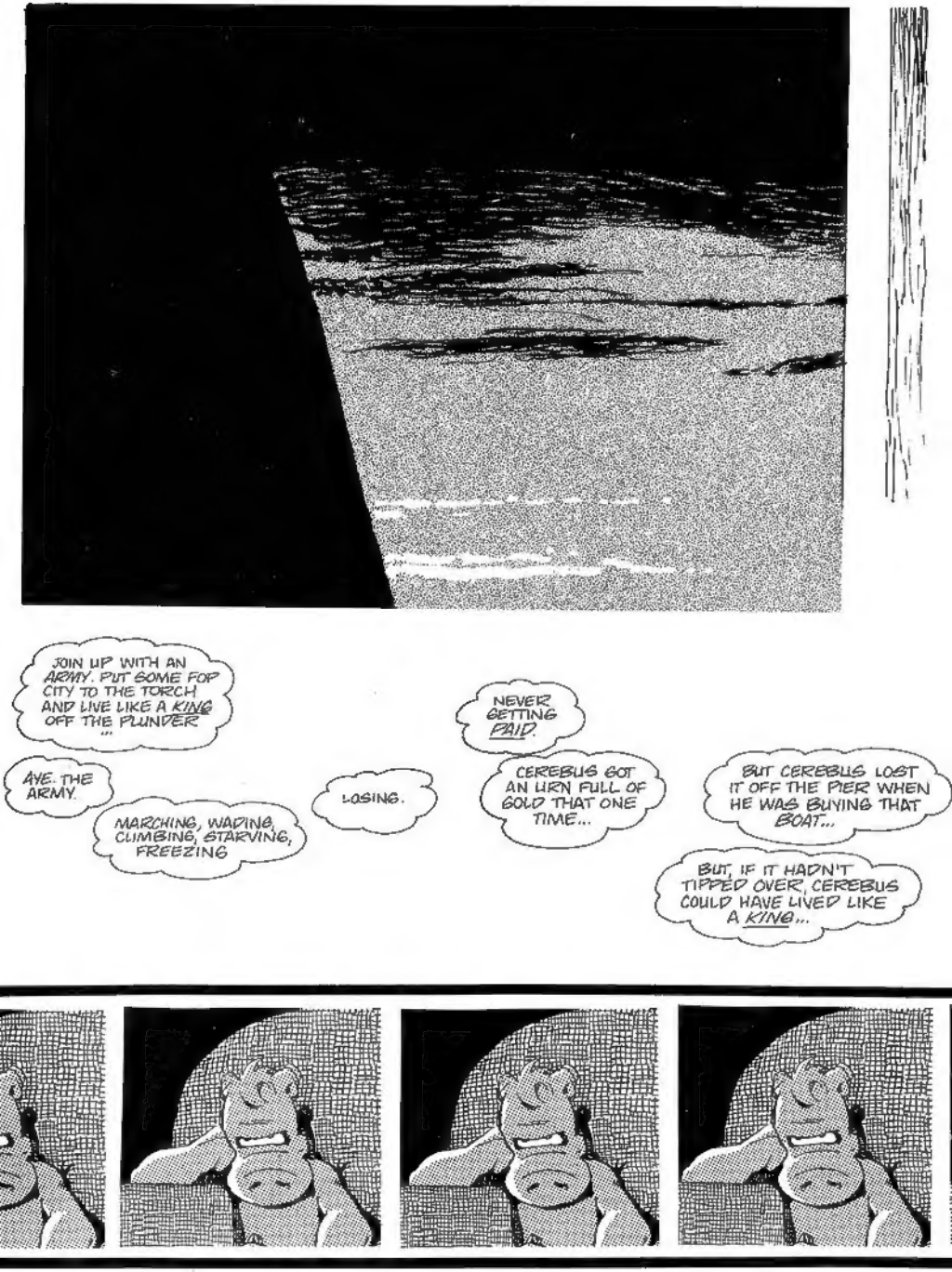
UNCLE ERIC DIED OF IT...

IT WAS BETTER THAN LIVING WITH *AUNT ROSE*.

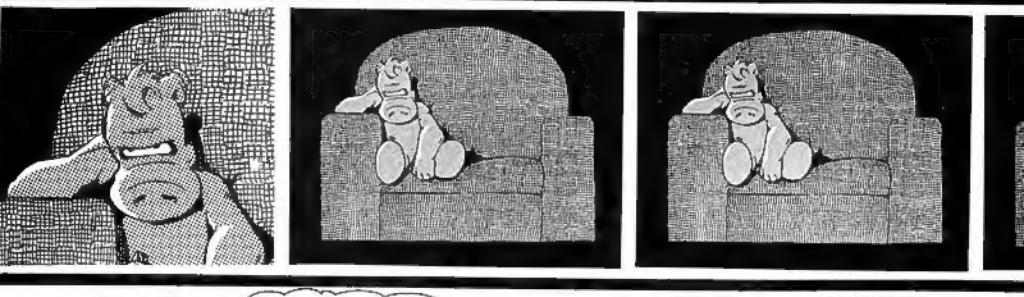


TRUE ENOUGH.


ONE.
TWO.
ONE.
TWO.
WHISKEY.
YES, MR. PRIME MINISTER. ONE BOTTLE OR TWO?
ONE.
ONE.
TWO.
ONE.
STUPID WIMP PROBABLY MAKES IN A DAY WHAT CEREBUS USED TO MAKE IN A FORTNIGHT IN THE ARMY...
THAT'S WHAT CEREBUS SHOULD DO...


JOIN UP WITH AN ARMY. PUT SOME FOR CITY TO THE TORCH AND LIVE LIKE A KING OFF THE PLUNDER ...
AYE. THE ARMY.
MARCHING, WADING, CLIMBING, STARVING, FREEZING
LOSING.
NEVER GETTING PAID.
CEREBUS GOT AN URN FULL OF GOLD THAT ONE TIME...
BUT CEREBUS LOST IT OFF THE PIER WHEN HE WAS BUYING THAT BOAT...
BUT, IF IT HADN'T TIPPED OVER, CEREBUS COULD HAVE LIVED LIKE A KING...

CEREBUS WOULD HAVE GONE TO THE NEAREST TAVERN AND LOST IT ALL PLAYING *DIAMONDBACK*...



AYE. FORGET MONEY. WHAT CEREBUS NEEDS IS A GOOD *FIGHT*.

AYE. A FIGHT.

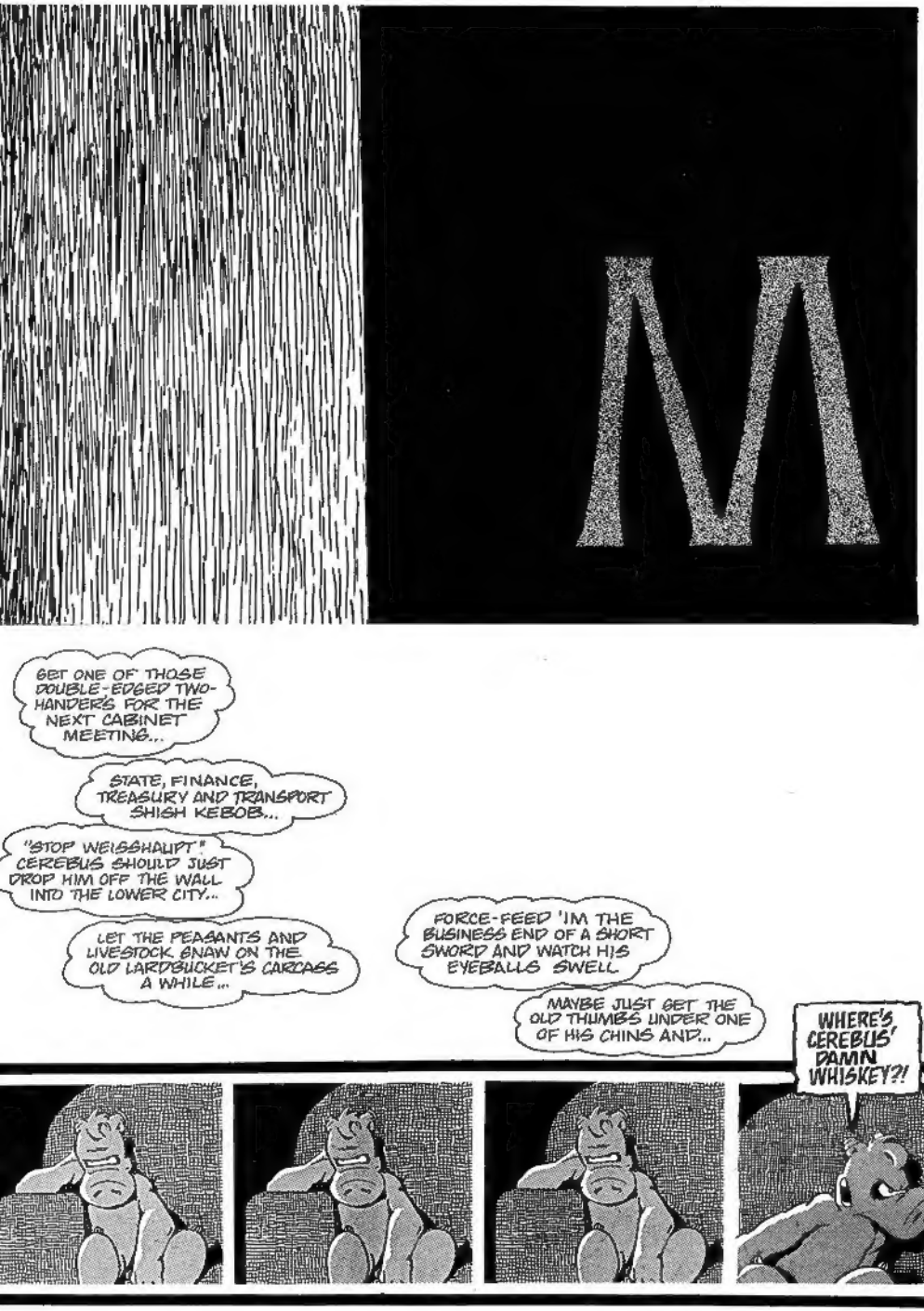
THEY'RE ALWAYS TAKING ADVANTAGE OF CEREBUS' GOOD NATURE...

BASTARDS.

AND THEY TALK ABOUT CEREBUS BEHIND HIS BACK. CEREBUS KNOWS.

CEREBUS SEES THEM *LAUGHING*. CEREBUS IS KEEPING A LIST IN HIS *HEAD*.

THEY'LL PAY...

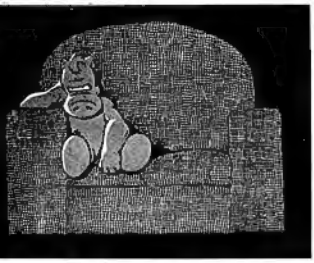

M
GET ONE OF THOSE DOUBLE-EDGED TWO-HANDERS FOR THE NEXT CABINET MEETING...
STATE, FINANCE, TREASURY AND TRANSPORT SHISH KEBOB...
"STOP WEISSHAUPT" CEREBUS SHOULD JUST DROP HIM OFF THE WALL INTO THE LOWER CITY...
LET THE PEASANTS AND LIVESTOCK GNAW ON THE OLD LARDBUCKET'S CARCASS A WHILE...
FORCE-FEED 'IM THE BUSINESS END OF A SHORT SWORD AND WATCH HIS EYEBALLS SWELL
MAYBE JUST GET THE OLD THUMBS UNDER ONE OF HIS CHINS AND...
WHERE'S CEREBUS' DAMN WHISKEY?!

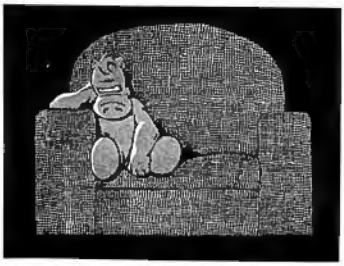
A FEW BUCKETS OF OIL AND A COUPLE OF TORCHES...

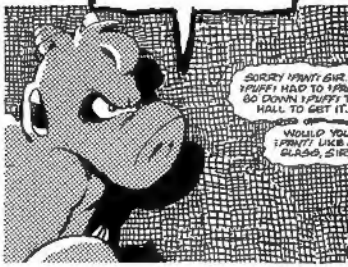
REDUCE THE WHOLE DAMN REGENCY TO A PILE OF OVER-PRICED ASHES

MAYBE JUST BREAK EVERYONE'S LEGS AND WATCH THEM WIGGLE AROUND THE...

WHERE'S CEREBUS' DAMN ...







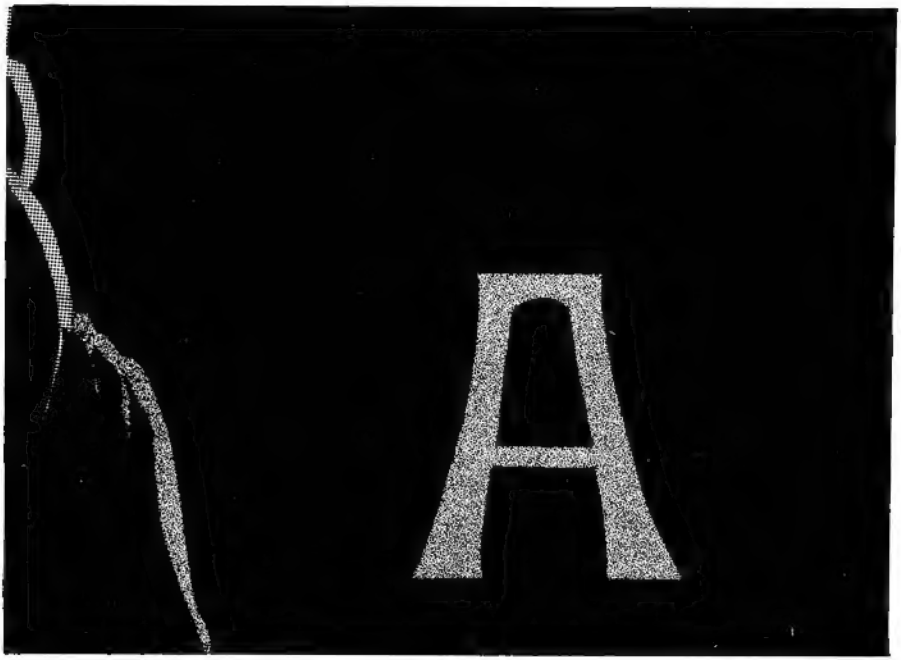
YES.

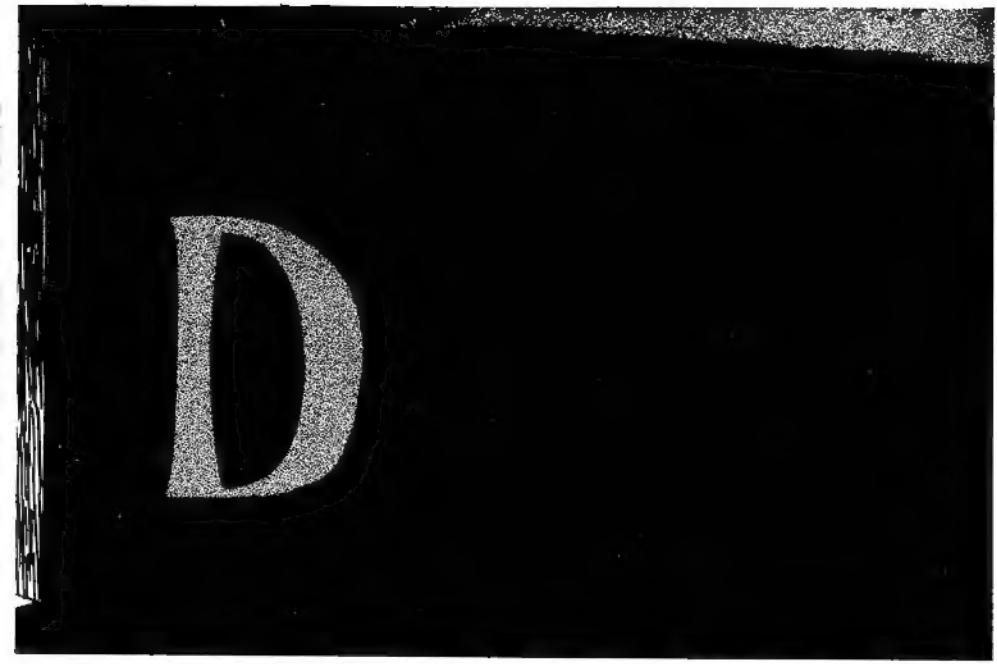
NO.

YES.

NO.

ONLY STUPID NORTHERN PEASANTS DRINK OUT OF THE BOTTLE.

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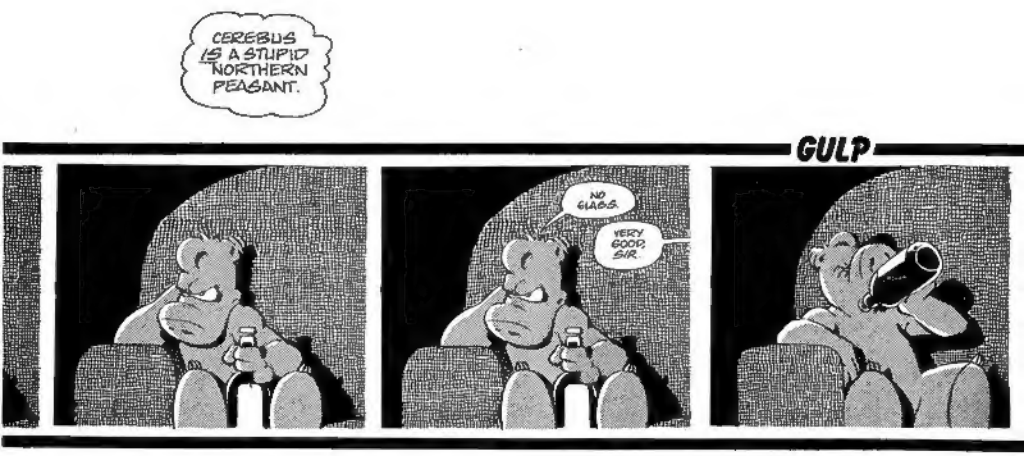
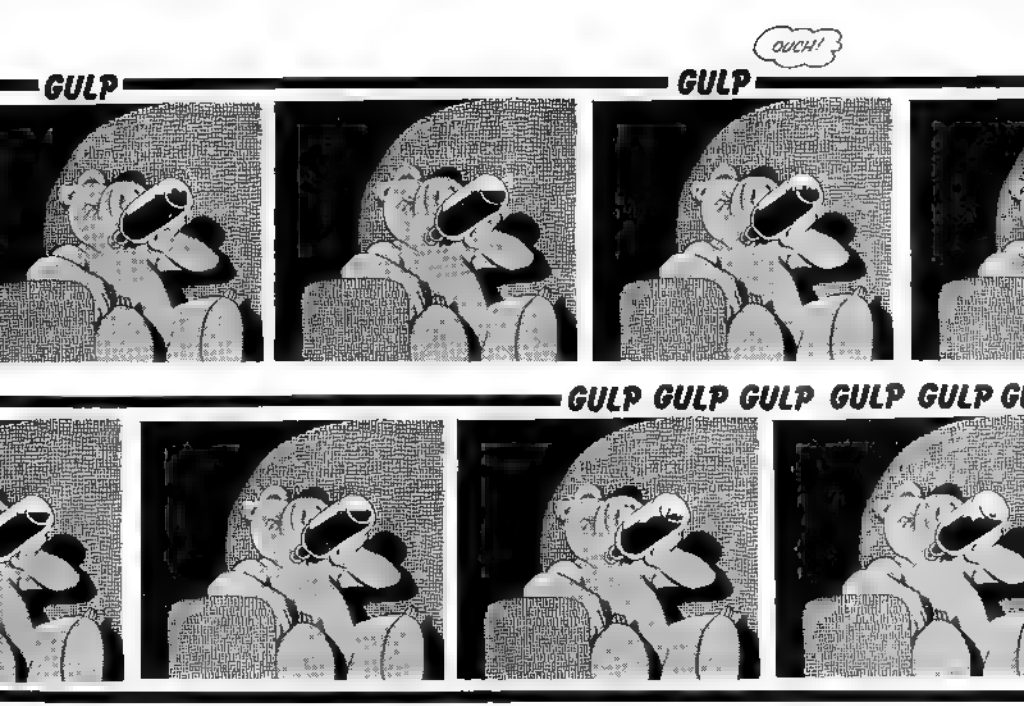
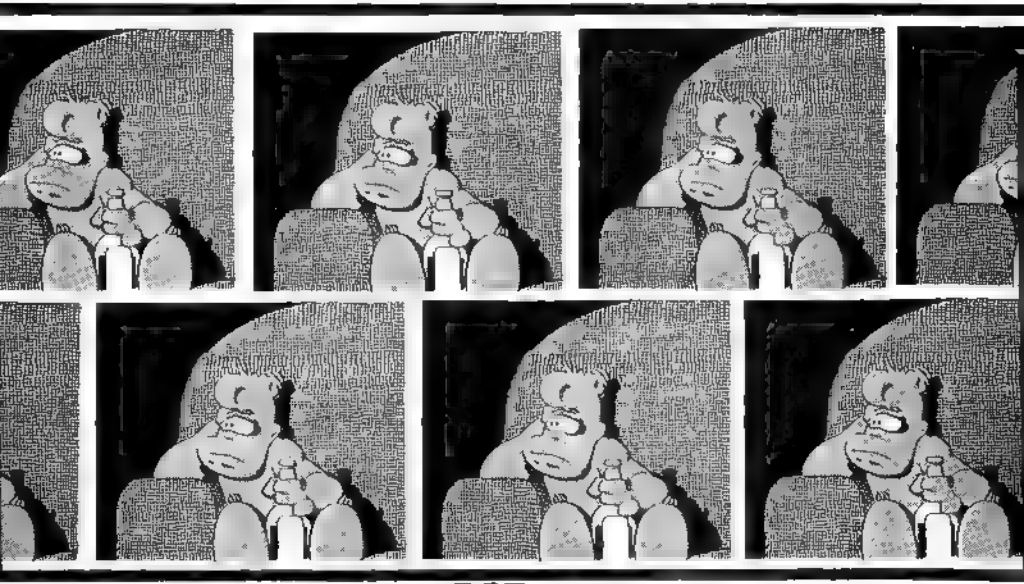

CEREBUS IS A STUPID NORTHERN PEASANT.
GULP
NO GLASS.
VERY GOOD, SIR.


OUCH!
GULP
GULP
GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP

G

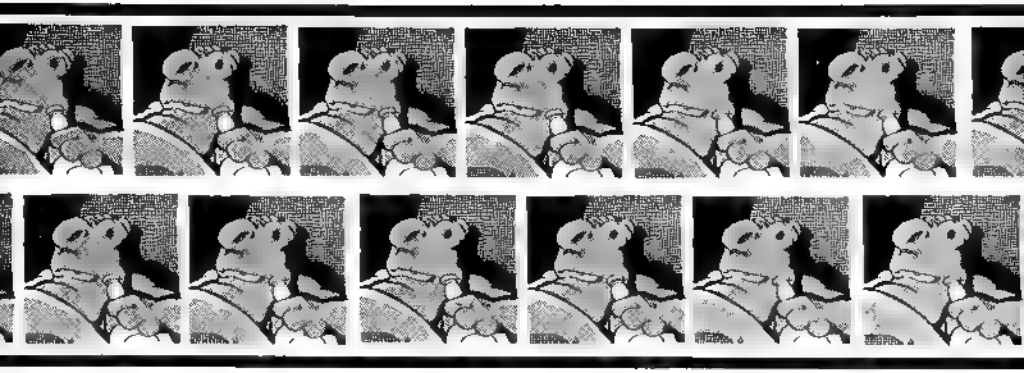
SOPHIA



SOPHIA
SOPHIA
SOPHIA

BOUNCY
BOUNCY
BOUNCY

SQUIRT



SOPHIA DOESN'T LOVE CEREBUS

NOBODY DOES

CEREBUS IS FAT.

CEREBUS IS STUPID

NOBODY CARES IF CEREBUS LIVES OR DIES

JAKA DOESN'T

CEREBUS IS UGLY

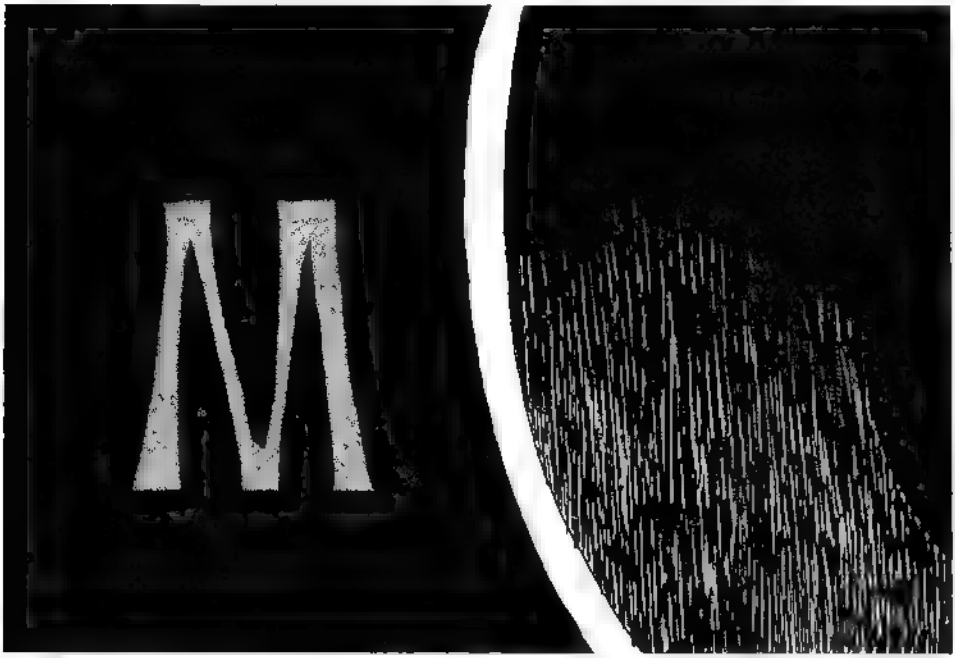
CEREBUS IS OLD

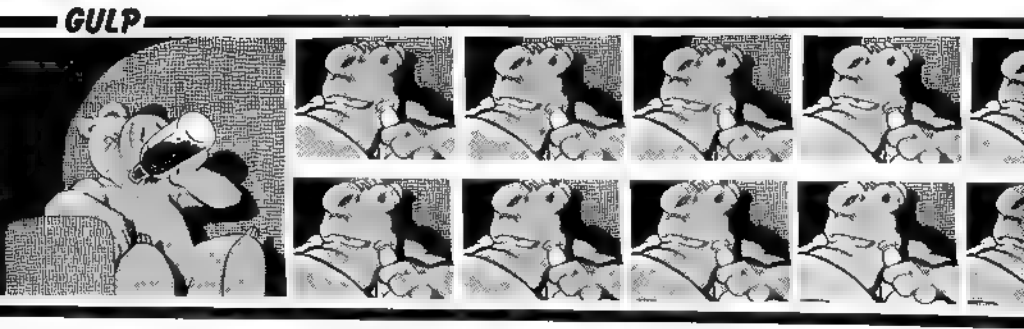
CEREBUS IS A NO GOOD DRUNK

WHY CAN'T THEY JUST LEAVE CEREBUS ALONE?

ASTORIA DOESN'T

CEREBUS IS SHORT





WEISSHAUPT. WISE HOP... WISE GUY HOT

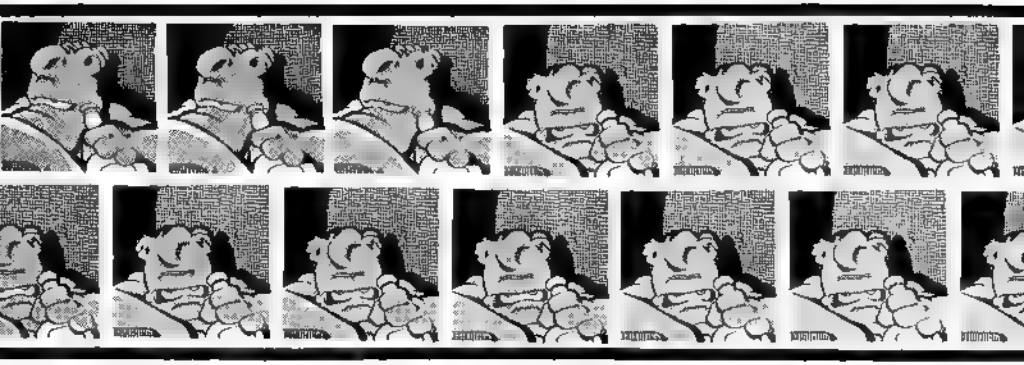
CEREBUS THE HANDPUPPET

PRESIDENT WIGGY-PIGGY

PRIME MINISTER WHISKEY-PISKEY

FIRST YOU WHISKEY ... THEN YOU PISKEY

MORE WHISKEY. PISKEY



NO NO MORE WHISKEY

CEREBUS' GUT HURTS

CEREBUS' EYES HURT

CEREBUS' HEAD HURTS

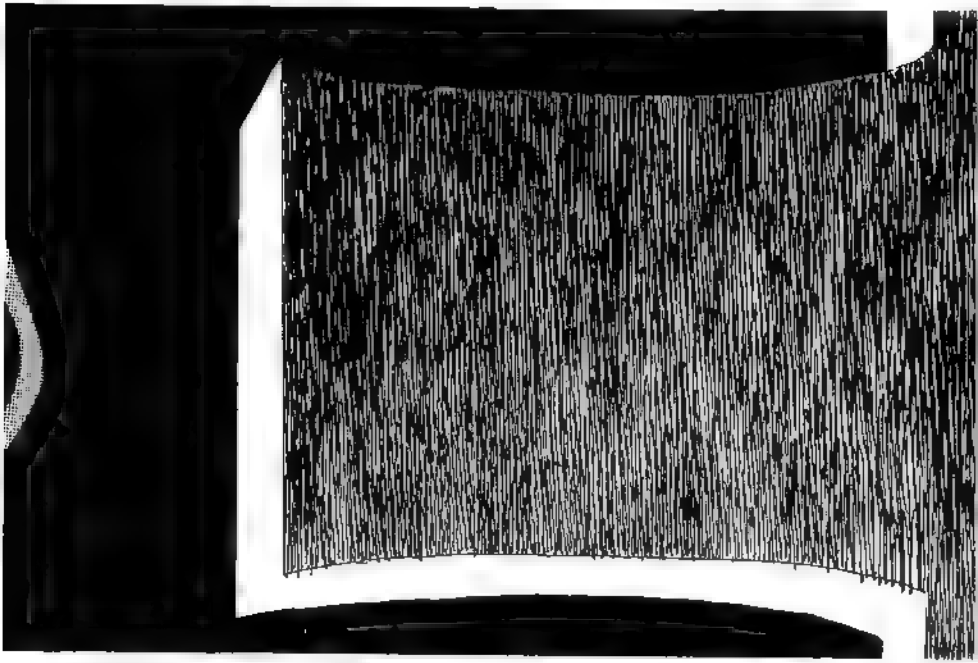
CEREBUS CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT

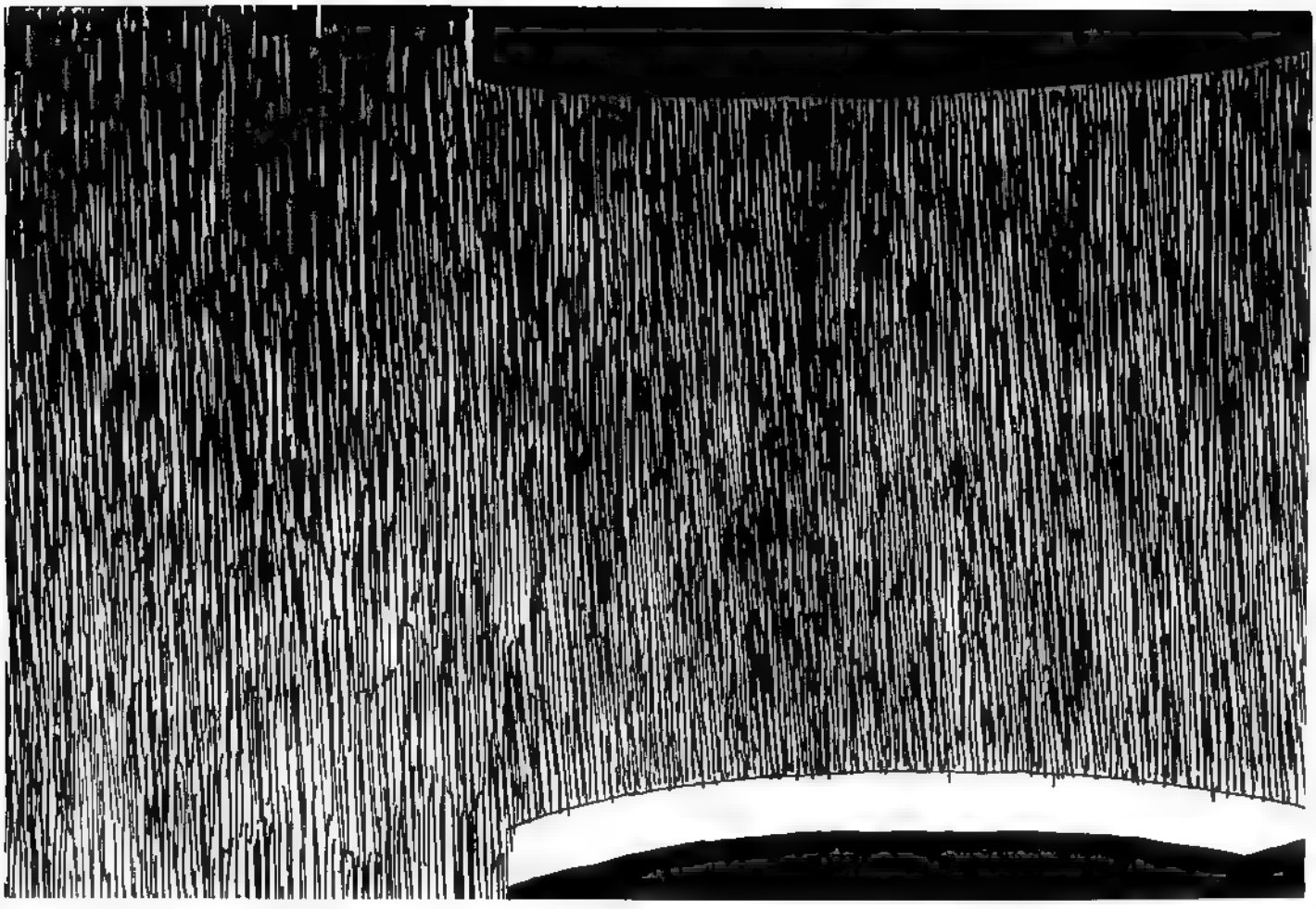
CEREBUS JUST HAS TO SIT STILL

BREATHE IN AND OUT..

RELAX RELAX RELAX

CEREBUS HAS THE SHAKES ..





IT'S JUST CEREBUS' NERVES

CEREBUS IS UNDER A LOT OF PRESSURE

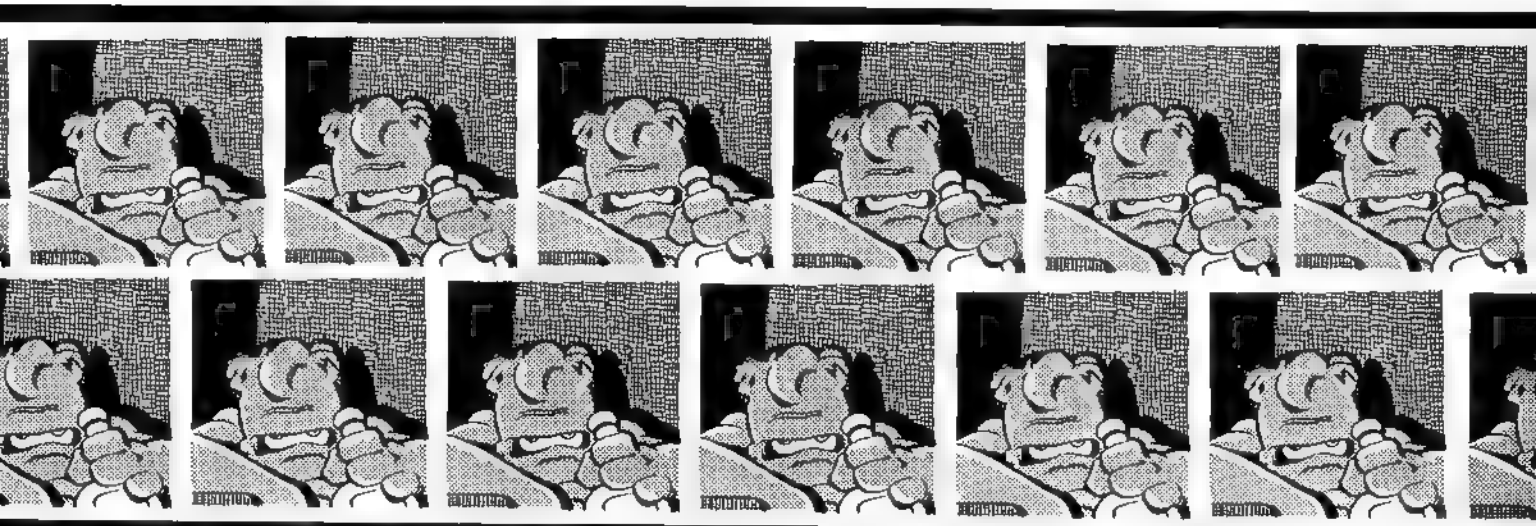
PEOPLE LAUGHING AT HIM.

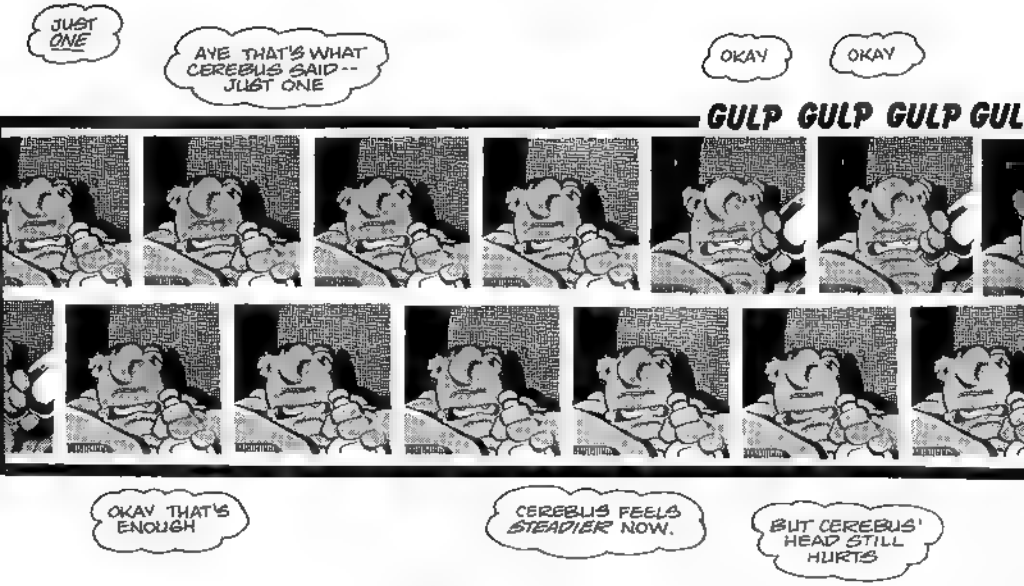
EVERYONE HATES CEREBUS

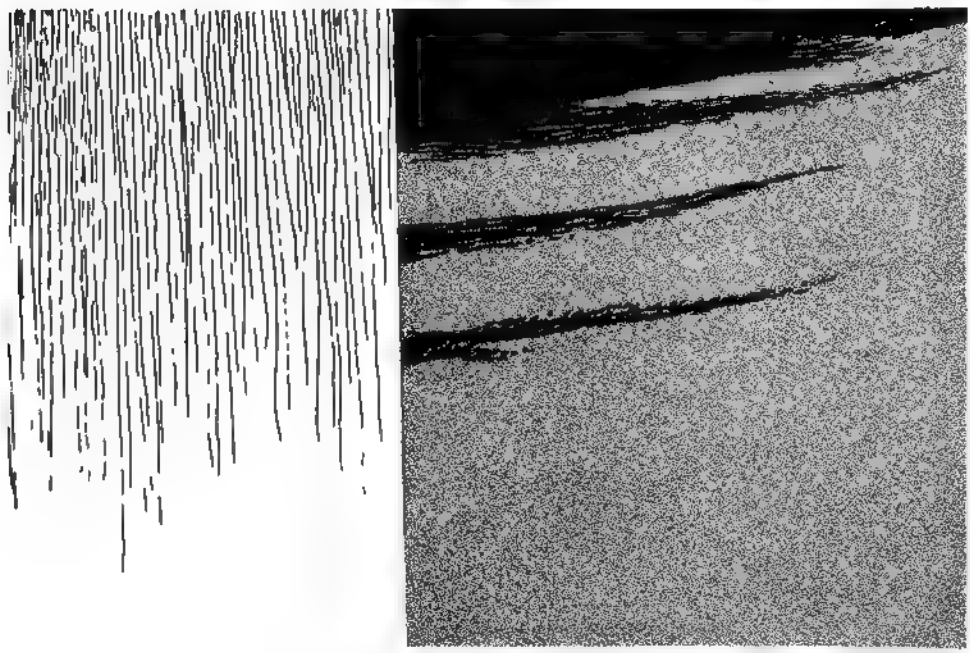
CEREBUS DOESN'T CARE...

CEREBUS JUST NEEDS SOMETHING TO STEADY HIS NERVES

ONE LITTLE DRINK.




JUST ONE
AYE THAT'S WHAT CEREBUS SAID -- JUST ONE
OKAY
OKAY
GULP GULP GULP GUL
OKAY THAT'S ENOUGH
CEREBUS FEELS STEADIER NOW.
BUT CEREBUS' HEAD STILL HURTS



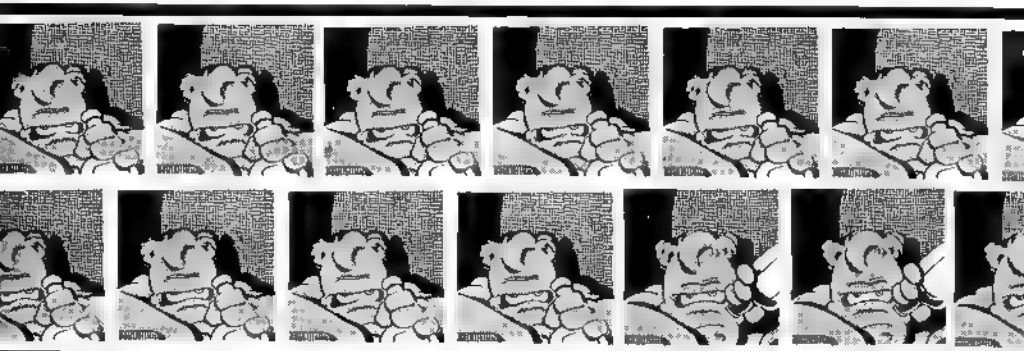
JUST ONE MORE ...

THEN CEREBUS WILL HAVE A CLEAR HEAD TO GO WITH HIS STEADY NERVES.

THEN CEREBUS CAN MAKE SOME PLANS

CEREBUS CAN'T MAKE PLANS WHEN CEREBUS' HEAD HURTS...

TRUE

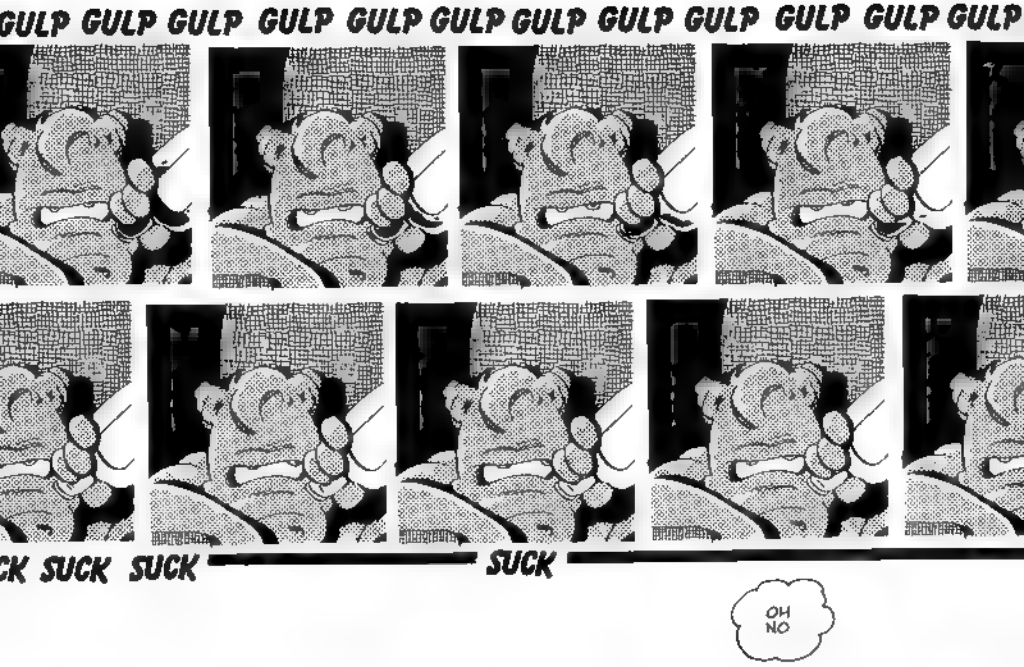


GULP GULP

CEREBUS WILL JUST DRINK UNTIL HIS HEAD DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE AND STOP

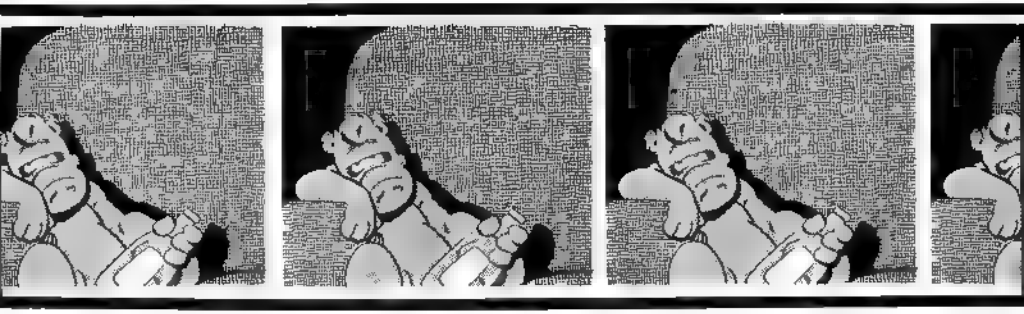
GOOD

GOOD


GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP GULP
CK SUCK SUCK
SUCK
OH NO

EMPTY

ALONE



AND CEREBUS' HEAD WAS JUST ABOUT TO STOP HURTING

ANOTHER BOTTLE

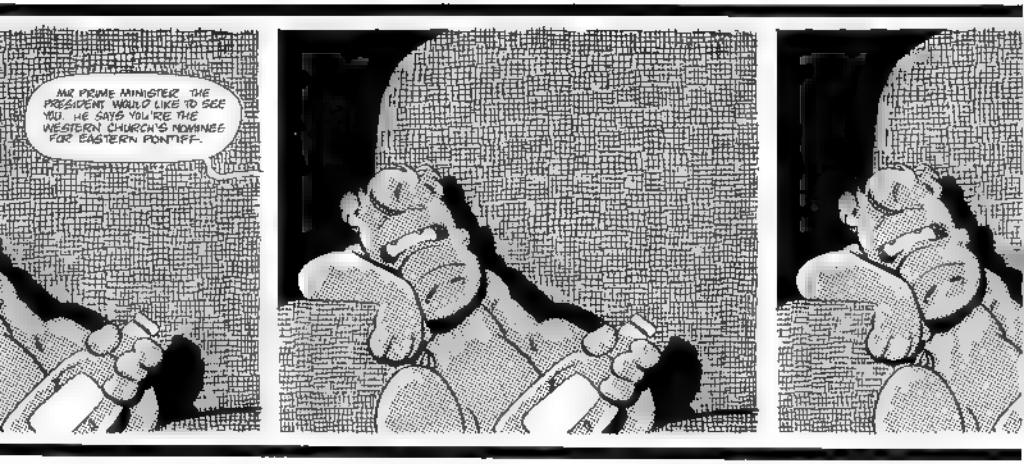
NO.

CEREBUS' GUT HURTS TOO MUCH...

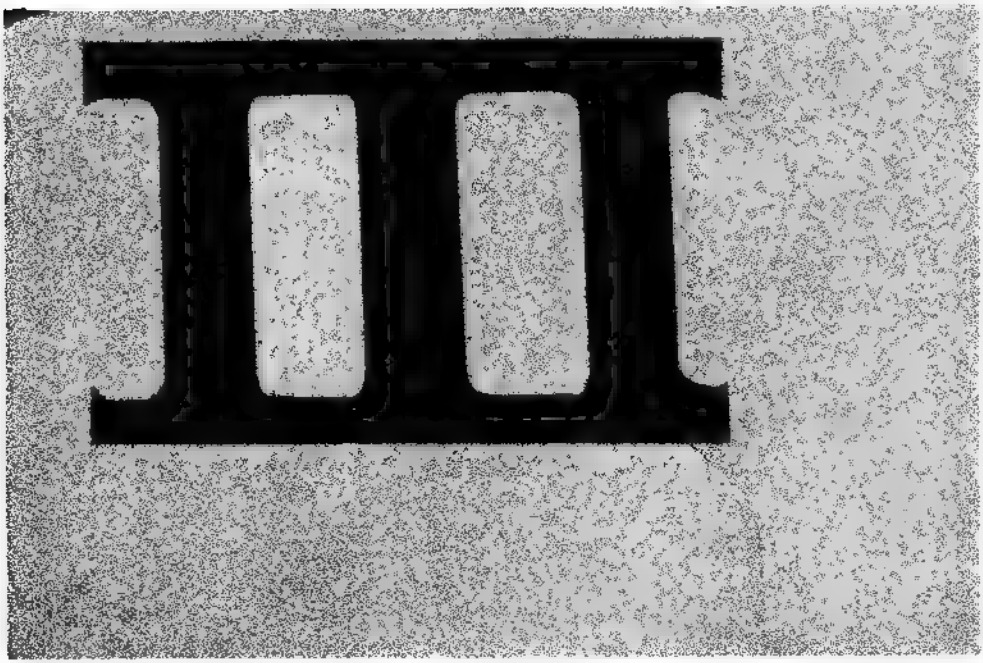
CEREBUS' EYES HURT ...

CEREBUS' LEG IS ASLEEP

CEREBUS CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT..



AND ON TOP OF EVERYTHING ELSE, CEREBUS IS HEARING THINGS



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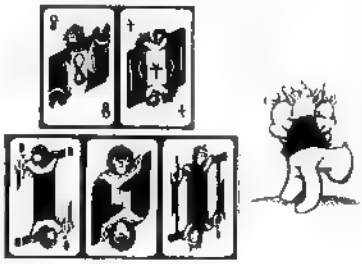

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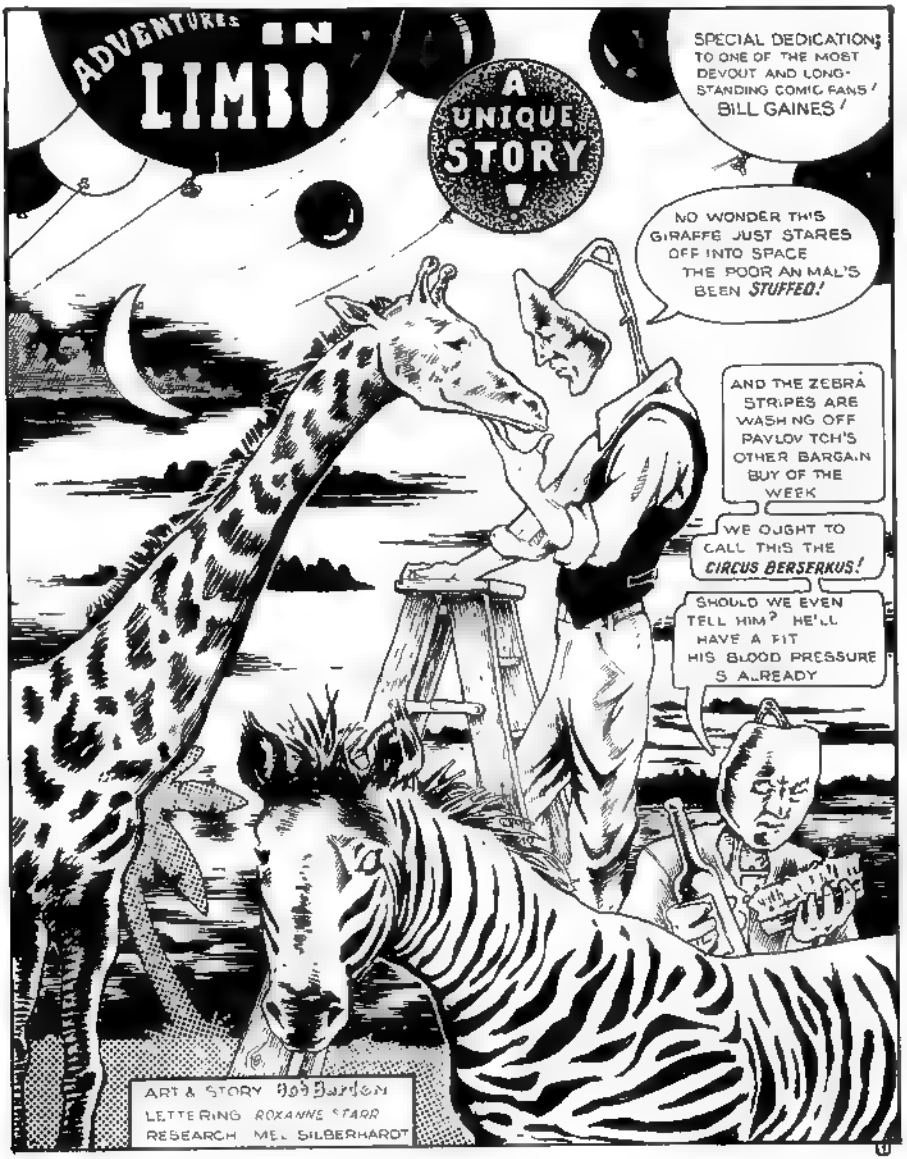
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SPECIAL DEDICATION; TO ONE OF THE MOST DEVOUT AND LONG-STANDING COMIC FANS / BILL GAINES /
NO WONDER THIS GIRAFFE JUST STARES OFF INTO SPACE THE POOR ANIMAL'S BEEN STUFFED!
AND THE ZEBRA STRIPES ARE WASHING OFF PAVLOV TCH'S OTHER BARGAIN BUY OF THE WEEK
WE OUGHT TO CALL THIS THE CIRCUS BERSERKUS!
SHOULD WE EVEN TELL HIM? HE'LL HAVE A FIT HIS BLOOD PRESSURE IS ALREADY
ART & STORY Bob Burden
LETTERING ROXANNE STARR
RESEARCH MEL SILBERHARDT

YOU INSUFFERABLE MORON! I TOLD YOU TO WASH THE ELEPHANT NOT SHOOT IT!
YOU SAID TAKE CARE OF THE ELEPHANT.
THOSE WERE YER EXACT WORDS!
O FER THE LUVA MIKE!
IF YOU MAKE FACES LIKE THAT, YOUR FACE MIGHT FREEZE THAT WAY!
LET'S SAY HE COMMITTED SUICIDE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THE ELEPHANT?
HE'S ONLY SLEEPING
BEANHEAD HERE SHOT HIM WITH HIS MACHINEGUN! DON'T YOU PEOPLE REALIZE WHO OWNS THIS CIRCUS? WE COULD ALL BE WEARING CEMENT OVERCOATS AT THE DROP OF A HAT! NOW HOW IN THE WORLD WILL WE GET RID OF THIS CARCASS?
HE LOOKED SO OLD I FELT SORRY FOR HIM
HE'S KINDA WRINKLED
MAYBE WE COULD CALL A CAB OR
HE WON'T FIT IN A CAB!
YOU TWO WISEACRES TALKED ME INTO HIRING THIS BULLARD YOU'RE AS RESPONSIBLE AS I AM!

I HEARD WATER RUNNING IT WOKE ME
IT WILL BE DAWN SOON! OH THE SCANDAL! ANIMAL CRUELTY ...TTERING BAD PRESS! THE PUBLIC ...YNCH US
BUT WHERE DO YOU DUMP AN ELEPHANT AT THIS HOUR? HOW DO WE GET IT OUT OF HERE?
SEE HERE RAVLOV TCH, WE'LL HELP YOU WITH THIS THING JUST GET HOLD OF YOURSELF NOW
THAT'S IT! EAT IT!
COOK IT AND EAT IT!
F WE BUILD A BARBEQUE PIT THAT BIG WE MAY AS WELL BURY IT
T OH CAN'T BURY T WE HAVE NO ONE TO DIG THE ...F FOR S
ANYTHING LL DO ANYTH NG
...LL BE HE'S LONG THE MAN W TH THE FEATHERS D DMP
...S A MALE ...M
PERHAPS F WE F ND SOMEONE WITH A DEAD FEMALE DEAD BABY ELEPHANTS YOU WOULDN'T HAVE TO TRAIN THEM
THAT'S AN IDEA NOW FAR IS THE NEAREST TRAIN?
THERE'S NO TRAIN
WELL WE DON'T HAVE A TRAIN BUT WE DO HAVE A BRIDE!
DON'T WANT TO MARRY REALLY JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO NOW BUT WOULD LIKE A CAR!

AND SO WITH THE ELEPHANT COUNTER WEIGHTED BY HELIUM BALLOONS THE STRANGE ENTOURAGE SETS OUT FOR A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE
I KNOW MISERY LOVES COMPANY BUT WHERE DOES IT SAY THAT IN SANITY MARRIES DEAD ELEPHANTS?
WHAT'S AN ENTOURAGE?
HEY REMEMBER THE TIME WE GOT CHINA BILL DRUNK AND HE MARRIED THE ORANGUTAN?
AND THE DAMN THING JUMPED SHIP OFF FRANCE AND GOT ARRESTED!
I MUST SEE MY LAWYER TOMORROW!

LOOK AT THESE GUYS AN ALL NIGHT POKER GAME!
THAT'S IT I HAVE AN IDEA
SNAP

SOON.
I'LL BET 3 BIRTHDAY CAKES AND A BUZZ SAW!
I'LL MEET THAT AND RAISE YOU 5 TOUPEES!
NEXT HAND JOKER'S WILD!

THE STAKES ARE STRANGE
A LOVE BIRDS AQUATIC CUBE STEAK A LUGER AND A BANJO THE HYENA BOY BETS A REBUILT TRANSMISSION
CUT!

BAH NEW DECK! I AIN'T BETTIN MY LAST JAR OF BUTTERFLIES ON A HAND LIKE THAT

I BET MY TEETH!

EVENTUALLY, THE GAME BREAKS UP . THEY DIDN'T MANAGE TO LOSE THE ELEPHANT TO ANYONE
HEY I THINK YOU GOT BLOOD IN YER ALCOHOLIC SYSTEM! NOT ONLY DIDN'T YOU LOSE THE DEAD ELEPHANT BUT YOU WON ANOTHER ONE! OUR BRIDE CAN'T MARRY BOTH DEAD ELEPHANTS THAT'S BIG BIGAMY!
SAY AREN'T YOU HUEY LONG?
NO I'M NOT HERE RIGHT NOW ONLY APPEAR TO BE
COULDN'T DROP THE POT LOOK AT THIS SWELL SET OF CLUBS ALWAYS WANTED TO PLAY GOLF
FOUR!
HEIGH HO LOOK AT THAT DRIVE! A HOLE IN WINDOW!
COULD HAVE HAD A V-8!
WILL YA LOOK AT THAT?
RIGHT IN THE POST OFFICE
WELL NOW GOT AN IDEA LET'S ROLL THESE TWO BEHEMOTHS DOWN THERE
YAH DE DIDDLE WE ARE SAVED! ALL OUR TROUBLES ARE OVER! KANSAS CITY -- HERE I COME! OH HAPPY DAY!
POST OFFIC
SEND TO DINO DE LAURENTIS STUDIO CITY, CALIF CALLER?
GULP! ANOTHER BEAN FELL OFF! OOOH NOOO
THINK WE SHOULD TELL HIM ABOUT THE ZEBRA?
SHIP TO MARY TYLER MOORE
THE END
5

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- VAL MAYERIK, in his very first in-depth interview, covers his career from co-creating HOWARD THE DUCK to his startling new Epic Comics series for Marvel: VOID INDIGO --in collaboration with STEVE GERBER!
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AARDVARK COMMENT

P O BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni,

I was very disappointed with Cerebus 61. And what, you may ask, was wrong with issue 61? There was not a single one of Mike Bannon's letters published in issue 61. No complaints about the lack of Scooby Doo. No comments on the wonders of weather. In short, not one word from our friend in Dubuque. We did not even have a letter from Michelle (Micky) DuPree to console ourselves with. What is Aardvark Comment coming to?

With great disappointment,

Daniel Pei
4120 Brooklyn Ave. N.E. #305,
Seattle, WA, 98105

Alright, alright, already. Here's Mike's latest and two from Micky. Jeez, I hate it when you guys whine.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Ms. Sim

Re "DAVE SIM"

So! The Marvel Comics Group (a division of Cadence Industries) has decided to put the full weight of its corporate foot on Aardvark-Vanaheim's spine?

Well, I'm afraid by doing so they've opened up a whole can of worms, legal-wise. Yes, you've guessed it I'm a-gonna sue you guys!

"Why, Mike?" you ask. "After the way we've raised you, cared for you -- made you feel like you were a human being!" Well, yes you did do that (and wiped my nose as a bonus). But money, as you must know, is thicker than whimsey.

Many years ago (before I was born, even), I created a small, limited-circulation (one copy) fanzine called *Goupi Lawnmowers*. It was enormously popular, and I almost printed two copies. Among the contents was a feature called "The Zany Adventures of Dave Sim" It was all about the antics of a dancing mud-worm.

Although it might be permissible under certain circumstances — with adequate safeguards to avoid possible confusion --if you don't cease your wholesale rip-off, I'm going to have to pee on your window-box geraniums.

And believe me, this is no idle threat! I know someone who has a cousin who was Perry Mason's trash collector's aunt!

Legally yours,

Mike Bannon
2453 Martin Drive,
Dubuque, IOWA 52001

P.S. By the way, the dancing mud-worm's side-kick was a tree-crab named Denise Loubert. I want you to know that you're not fooling me for ***one minute...***

We've consulted our lawyer and evidently Our Man in Dubuque has us over a barrel (kinky picture to conjure with, no?). We are working on an out-of-court settlement which would see Mike getting Arn Saba as a part-time gardener, Valentino as a full-time court jester and a third round draft pick in '85. Mike however is holding out for his picture on the cover of issue 72 and a full page ad in the New York Times in which I would hand-letter one thousand times "I am an attempt to parody an unpublished mudworm." Negotiations continue even as I write this.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Dave,

Two letters enclosed. The other I fervently hope for publication because I wish to speak in Deni's and your behalf. But where that letter deals with rudeness and the ugly spectre of legal battles, this letter deals with the altogether more sobering confessions of your anonymous young criminal fan.

The shoplifter's actions were a twisted testimonial to your work, but you didn't drive him to do it. Collecting is already a mildly compulsive hobby. While most of us manage to conduct it harmlessly, the boy plainly showed himself to have a pathological case of it.

He was likely to have stolen his favorite comic, regardless of what it was; he just happened to exhibit good taste in comics as well as poor judgement in right and wrong, appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

I have no worry that you blame yourself for what he did. I have read *Cerebus the Aardvark*. The author of *Cerebus* clearly understands responsibility for personal conduct -- and the limits of that responsibility. But perhaps you are moved beyond the bounds of mere responsibility. You wish there were a magic wand or magic words you could use to make everything all right.

Well, if I knew the magic words, I'd give them to you. But I don't.

Do what you can. Tell him — in print, since he didn't leave a return address —that you're glad he likes your work, that you disapprove of stealing, but that you don't hate him. Tell him that instead of remembering him as the boy who stole your comics, you'll always think of him as the boy who tried to do better.

Mortal words, I'm afraid, not magic ones. But we do what we can. With a little tooth-gnashing for good measure.

I remain,

Micky DuPree

* * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Deni Sim and Dave Sim,

Heavy letters indeed.

I assume there's no chance of the "Kenyon & Kenyon" letter being a hoax? They properly identified themselves as certified attorneys and so forth? (You ought to check directly with Marvel to make sure).

That out of the way, my gut reaction to the cease and desist order is uneasy skepticism and contempt. I'm not an attorney, but I know that what you did with Wolveroach has been similarly done before. That doesn't necessarily make it legal, but it does sort of make you wonder if "Keynon & Kenyon" are on firm

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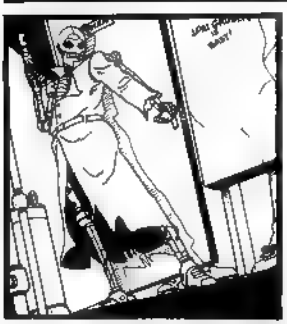

Two Canadian airships had been destroyed in an encounter with an unidentified spacecraft. The weaponry employed by the alien craft was unknown to them.

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ground. Look at First Comics' use of "The Unhappy F-Men" in E-Man. That lasted more than one issue. And what about "Little Annie Fanny" in Playboy magazine?

Would Playboy magazine risk a copyright infringement suit?

Why did Marvel wait until now to complain? Where were they back when Red Sophia was created? Or Professor Charles X. Claremont? Or Captain Cockroach? Or, heavens, the merely interminable Moon Roach? Is it just that Wolverine is worth more bucks to them?

Does a "one-shot" mean you can never, ever use a parody character more than once? Or is their objection only to the "serial" use of parody characters, leaving us to infer that several single-issue appearances would be tolerated if spread out over as many years?

The language of their letter is typically adversarious: concede nothing, accuse everything. Notice how they say that "'Wolveroach' — would appear to be an attempt to parody Marvel's 'Wolverine,'" in the subjunctive, which is reserved for the hypothetical. "Would appear," indeed. Well, do they think it's a parody or don't they? If they're certain enough to make demands (though, interestingly, no actual threats), then they ought to be bloody well certain enough to flatly state that they consider "Wolveroach" to be a "Wolverine" parody. Notice too, they say "it may be permissable ... to make a one-time parody...." (Italics mine.) "May"? Only "may"? Do tell. Would they rather suggest that every parodist still living in the United States of America and Canada be hauled into court, (including some Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonists)? This "Mr. Sinder" is very cautious with words, but not very careful. By the pains he has taken not to concede any legal points, he has slipped into the ridiculous.

The letter throws much into confusion, and its unannounced arrival is terribly uncivil. Why didn't they send something a little less formal in advance, warning you that they were looking into the matter? What you got hardly seems appropriate for a first communication on the subject. Frankly, when I finished the Kenyon & Kenyon letter, I was less concerned about the legal matter (although, of course, it must be looked into), than I was about the shabby, preemptory treatment accorded to a couple of people who never meant Marvel Comics any harm.

I am going to write Jim Shooter a card saying, "I don't approve of Marvel's treatment of Dave Sim and Deni Sim, as indicated by the Kenyon & Kenyon letter in Cerebus #61," and I'm going to recommend to every other comics reader that he or she do the same. For legal reasons, you yourself might not want to publicly recommend this course of action, but since these views are 100% my own, you can publish this part of my letter with my name on it, and then disclaim it.

Walk softly, but make them show their cards.

Yours truly,

Micky DuPree
77 Grant Street,
Somerville, MA., 02145

Having fans who can express themselves this coherently on very ambiglous issues makes all the little pitfalls that much easier to sidestep. Thanks, Mick.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Dave,

Congratulations!

It is our pleasure to inform you that you have tied for first place in the category of Favorite Writer of 1983 in *The Comics Buyer's Guide* Fan Poll Awards. The award covers all work appearing in comic books with 1983 cover dates and is determined by votes of the readership of CBG. It signified that, of all the writers in comics, you are the favorite of CBG readers. Furthermore, Cerebus himself has tied in the category of Favorite Character of 1983. Keep up the good work and, again, congratulations!

Sincerely,

Don Thompson
Maggie Thompson, Co-Editors
Kim Metzger, Staff Editor
The Comics Buyer's Guide
700 East State St., Iola, WI. 54990

Don, Maggie and Kim have generously offered to send a sample copy of Comic Fandom's weekly newspaper to any Cerebus fans who request one. If you aren't a comics fan I would recommend it as a good capsule of what makes up the comics field. And if you are a comics fan, it is indispensable for keeping up on all the latest news and opinion in the field.

And special thanks to all the CBG readers who voted for little old me. The certificates look great framed.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Dave and Deni,

I have been with Cerebus since its beginning. I turned all my friends on to Cerebus because I was excited by it. It was a ground-breaking comic both in terms of subject matter and publishing style. The stories were intelligent (truly a rarity in comics) and the art improved consistently. My fondness for the above kept me buying the last half dozen issues.

Today, however, I've given up. Dave, you just don't seem to put effort into the stories like you used to. Who wants to wait six issues to gather clues on a story that a) is disjointed, b) slow moving and c) gives so few coherent clues that one gets the impression that even the author isn't quite sure what's going on.

But probably most insulting to me is your use of borders and xerox. I can take a few less backgrounds, but there is no excuse for the way you've tried to be lazy. After about six pages, borders that are constantly rexeroxed are redundant and provide nothing more than an excuse for drawing half pages in place of full ones. The same can be said for xerox effects -it's amusing once or twice but after that it is simply a crutch.

"Amateur hour" in the back of the book won't keep me coming back, either, but it used to be worth it for Cerebus. I'm going to miss it. I already have.

Sincerely,

Seth Katz,
121 Rincon #6,
Santa Cruz, CA., 95060

Wait'll someone tells him he had a letter published in this issue.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Dear Deni: Thank you for the recent copies of your publications (Cerebus, Journey and Normalman). I always enjoy seeing new works and creations.

Though I had never seen any of these publications previously, I was aware

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

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contains; 'I, FOR AN EYE'
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'DEATH, DO US PART' 1-3
also includes a text story by max collins
with spot illustrations by terry beatty

of the "earth pig" since several artists in the Studio are readers and often bring him up. (I also have the first three issues of Neil the Horse, which Arn Saba gave me last year at the San Diego Comic Con).

Your publications seem to have a strong feeling of "freshness". So many times new publishers (and their talent) will simply recreate what is happening around them. To succeed in any industry, you must continue to grow. You and your artists/writers seem to know this and are reaching out in a variety of areas. I congratulate all of you on this.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to see your work. I appreciate you sending them to me.

Sincerely,

Don Bluth
Producer/Director
Don Bluth Animation

For those who don't know, Don Bluth is the renegade Disney artist who formed his own studio and produced the lovely "Secret of Nimh" feature a while back.

Thank you for your kind words Don and thank you (and Dom DeLuise) for Jeremy the Crow. He's a fave of mine.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave,
Last night, unable to sleep, I grabbed a comic book at random from my collection and read it. The comic book was *Phantom Stranger* #21.

The villain of the story was named Cerebus. Since I know you read *Phantom Stranger* at that time (your letter was printed in #17, remember?) I was struck by the coincidence. Were you aware of this? Is this perhaps a case of subconscious assimilation? Or is it simply the sort of wildly improbable coincidence that happens every day?

David Bachman
2240 NW 42nd. Apt 50,
Oklahoma City, OK., 73112

Actually, David, it's all part of a conspiracy of such ominous and far-reaching implications that you have seriously imperiled us all just by bringing it up. I'm printing your address in the hopes that the MIB's come for you and leave me alone. Nothing personal, just self-preservation.

Dear Dave,

I just wanted to join everyone else who has written to tell you how intelligent, beautiful and enjoyable I find *Cerebus*. I also wanted to write, (on the off chance that you'd print my letter and hence, reply) to ask a (probably trivial) question about a reference to the Cirinists I noticed while re-reading issue 28. When you say that Cirin wants to reinstate the old Corn King rituals, are you talking about something similar to the ancient worship of the Goddess where the earth-mother figure is immortal and her consort dies/sacrifices himself/is sacrificed every so often (usually once a year) so that the crops are guaranteed continued health and fertility? Usually the consort of the Goddess (the Corn King, Jack in the Green, Head of the Dance, Attis...etc) is represented by a real live man at the ceremony, a man who is sacrificed so that his blood will give fertility to the land. If this is so, I can see why the Church of Tarim is so horrified at the Cirinists. (Aside from the hatred that any religion feels when another is encroaching on its territory). The Catholic Church has always done its damnedest to eradicate witchcraft, which is essentially the same type of worship. I ask this, wondering whether the Corn-King rituals play a large part in Cirin's struggle for control, or whether it was an incidental remark. I'll admit, I find the latter improbable, given your marvelously detailed world, but it's not the most well known of religions, so....

Anyway, please accept yet more praise and thanks for sharing Cerebus with the rest of the world. (and please say hello to the Elf for me!)

Sincerely,

Diana Foss
1-62 Caltech,
Pasadena, CA., 91126

The Corn-King rituals are central to the Cirinist's doctrine and a major element in their control of Upper Felda. But while the beliefs tend to be associated primarily with an agrarian society, I am postulating in Cerebus what would have happened if they had survived the switch to a more urbane society. More on this as we go along, so keep watching. (These Caltech people are perceptive, don't you think?)

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave, Deni and Karen,

Since my fan club renewal was due anyway, I figured this may well be a good time to write. First up, let me thank you for being able to continue publishing despite personal problems. The little grey guy means a lot to a great many people, bringing good fun and humor into their lives each month.

He means a lot to me, too, since it was him who brought my lady and I together at a local con.

The level of quality you can achieve each month in this book is really amazing. If there's any justice in the world the sales on Cerebus should keep on going up, till you top the sales on Time and Newsweek.

No. Really. You see, Cerebus seems to be able to grab the interest of almost anybody. Yet I don't think it's just the concept of Cerebus that's responsible for this. I think that whatever Dave had done would succeed like this, because so much of this book relies on his talents as a writer, a letterer, and not just as an artist, but as a storyteller.

We have here, working independently, a man whose abilities in these fields rival those of the top people in the industry. People like Marshall Rogers, Barry Windsor-Smith, Berni Wrightson, Frank Miller, John Byrne, and even the amazing Will Eisner. These men are among the greatest graphic narrators ever, and Dave Sim is right up there with them. Let's hope he stays there for a long time.

Yours faithfully, for 300 issues and beyond.

Desmond W. Roden
P.O. Box 350,
Hamilton, Brisbane,
Qld, AUSTRALIA 4007

I hate to take issue with flattery, Desmond, but I don't think Cerebus has the potential to overtake Time and Newsweek in circulation figures. The book is done to appeal to a specific mentality that delights in obscurity as much as it does in clarity. Who knows? Maybe there will be a breakthrough point, but for myself I would just as soon watch the circulation climb steadily over the next nineteen years and not have to deal with the mass-market pressures with which mass-market publications have to deal.

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